ISSUE No. 21 Week ending July 10, 1971

countdown

The Space age comic!

DR. WHO The Vogan Slaves

Tardis is on its way back to the Vogan planet with the first consignment of slaves. The Vogans, an ancient evil race, are doomed unless they get fresh supplies of Voganite, the rare mineral that gives them eternal life. Dr. Who is pretending to assist them but is secretly attempting to take control of the Vogan robots. The search for the correct frequency for bringing the slaves out of their trance state is nearly at an end . . .

IT'S NO GOOD, DOCTOR. I'VE NEARLY COMPLETED THE ENTIRE RANGE AND NOTHING'S HAPPENED. THEY'RE DOOMED.
DON'T BE SO MELODRAMATIC, TRANDI. LET ME FINISH THIS, THEN I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND.

DR. WHO JOINS TRANDI AT THE SUBSONIC CONTROL TRANSMITTER . . .
THAT'S IT, DOCTOR. THE LAST ONE AND IT'S NEGATIVE.
WE HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO EXPERIMENT WITH THE FREQUENCY... THERE MUST BE A SOLUTION...

Turn to page 13

STINGRAY

The Waters of Hyde

After suffering from the effects of Factor X34, found in the waters of the Martian underground sea, Troy leads a raiding party to treat the Mertians. Armed with antidote in inertia guns, the Earthmen hope to cure the population of the micro-parasite which changes them into monsters . . .

● ART: RAB HAMILTON © 1971 Century 21 M. Ltd.

MISS NO ONE... THEY MUST ALL RECEIVE THE ANTIDOTE.
POUL SURE WASN'T KEEN ON HAVING THAT NEUTRALIZER, TROY.
HE'LL THANK US FOR IT WHEN HE RECOVERS.
BUT THEN...
TROY... LOOK AT POUL'S HANDS!
HIS SKIN'S DRYING OUT LIKE OLD LEATHER...
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM...?
LOOK AT HIS FACE...
PHONES, CHECK THE REST OF THE MERTIANS... WE'D BETTER STOP THE REST OF THE TREATMENT UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING.
GET THE MEDICS HERE, AND FAST!
BUT TROY'S TOO LATE, THE ONLY SURVIVORS ARE THE EARTHMEN ORIGINALLY SENT TO EXPLORE THE SUBMARTIAN SEA...
O.K., TROY...
WHERE'S THE RAIDING PARTY?
YOU'RE TOO LATE, CAPTAIN, THEY'VE DONE THEIR JOB. THEY'VE WIPED OUT A RACE OF PEOPLE.
BY TREATING THE MERTIANS YOU ALSO NEUTRALIZED THE FACTOR THAT HELPED THEM RETAIN THEIR YOUTH...

THE EXPLORER TELLS TROY OF THE MERTIAN'S HISTORY AND HOW A THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE, A TERRIBLE METEORITE STORM HAD DEVASTATED THE SURFACE...

THOSE THAT SURVIVED SHELTERED IN DEEP UNDERGROUND CAVES WAITING FOR AN END TO THE ASTRAL BOMBARDMENT...

BUT THE STORM LASTED TWO YEARS... AND WHEN THEY FINALLY EMERGED FROM THE CAVES THEIR PLANET WAS A BARREN WILDERNESS...

AND SO THEY RETURNED UNDERGROUND AND FOUND THE GREAT SUBMARTIAN SEA WHICH OFFERED THEM THE FRUITS OF SURVIVAL AND THE HIDDEN POWER TO CHANGE THEIR PHYSICAL STRUCTURE TO THAT OF PRIMITIVE MONSTERS.

SEVERAL CENTURIES PASSED AND THEY BEGAN TO ACCEPT THEIR STRANGE FATE. MOST OF THE TIME THEY WOULD BE THE OLD ORIGINAL, MIGHTY CIVILISED RACE; AT OTHER TIMES JUST APE-MEN. THE WATER ALSO CONTAINED ANOTHER FACTOR. IT GAVE THEM ETERNAL YOUTH...

THE EARTH PARTY PREPARE TO RETURN TO THE SURFACE...

WE ALSO SHARED THAT ETERNAL YOUTH... UNTIL YOU CAME ALONG TO END IT ALL.

SUPPOSING THE PRIMITIVES HAD FINALLY TAKEN OVER? MARS WOULD HAVE BEEN INFESTED WITH A DEATHLESS RACE OF MONSTERS.

YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE!

WE HAD EVERY RIGHT. OUR EXPERIMENTS PROVED THAT THE PRIMITIVE FACTOR WAS GETTING STRONGER AND WOULD FINALLY TAKE OVER.

IS THAT WHAT YOU WANTED? LIVING FOREVER AS AN UNINTELLIGENT MONSTER? O.K., SO WE MADE MISTAKES!

countdown

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The UFO that Stalked a Bomber

In September 1957, one year after a Royal Air Force fighter intercepted a UFO over Lakenheath following an alert by U.S. Air Force radar operators, a U.S. Air Force RB-47 *Stratojet* had a remarkable encounter with a UFO over the southern United States.

As you will have read in *Countdown* No. 6, the R.A.F. *Venom* 'locked on' to its UFO quarry by radar, only to be given the slip by the unknown, which in turn 'chased' the fighter.

The *Stratojet* located its UFO with its radar detection instruments, and was stalked for 600 miles by the unknown which also played a weird game of 'tag' with the big six-engined jet.

These two incidents were listed as secret until January 1969, when their existence was revealed by the report of the U.S. Air Force-sponsored Colorado University study of UFOs headed by Dr. E. U. Condon.

Both cases were conceded as unexplained in the Condon Report, yet despite this, and the fact that several other cases were left unexplained by the Colorado team, Dr. Condon concluded that "further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby."

MISSING FACTS

Among those who disagreed with this conclusion was Dr. J. E. McDonald, Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Arizona, who traced the six crew members of the RB-47 and discovered that the Colorado team had not considered the full facts of the case.

Dr. McDonald presented the full account in a paper read to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The paper was sent to *Flying Saucer Review* for publication in May 1970. Here is a summary of the account:

Piloted by Major Lewis D. Chase the RB-47 took off from Forbes AFB, Topeka, Kansas, on September 20, 1957, for gunnery exercises over the Texas-Gulf area, navigation exercises over the sea, and Electronic Countermeasures (ECM) tests during the return trip.

The Boeing B-47 Stratojet was once the 'world's fastest bomber, with a speed over 600 mph. The RB-47 was a photo-reconnaissance version.

ECM involves the location and analysis of an opposing radar defence system, and particularly its position relative to the approaching bombers.

The ECM equipment on these 1957 aircraft is no longer secret. It consisted of three monitoring sets: No. 1, APD-4 direction-finder with antennae in the wing-tips; No. 2, ALA-6 direction-finder with back-to-back antennae housed in the rear undersurface of the plane; and a No. 3 set which was not involved in the incident.

On the return trip across the Mississippi coast, No. 2 set, manned by Frank McClure (now Major), detected a 2,800 MHz signal aft of the starboard beam out over the Gulf.

As there were no radar sets out there, he thought it was probably a signal from Louisiana 'painting' on his tube, due to some malfunction, 180° in reverse.

ENCIRCLED

To his surprise, however, the source of the signal moved *in a complete orbit* of the RB-47 which was flying at about 500 mph!

As the plane went into a scheduled turn westwards over Jackson, Miss., the pilot observed a bright white light closing swiftly on his 11 o'clock position.

As they were about to take evasive action, he and co-pilot McCoid saw the light change direction at incredible speed from left to right (2 o'clock position) and then blink out.

When McClure heard the pilots discussing the light over the intercom, he reported what his monitor had shown on the run from Gulfport. He also switched his receiver back to the 2,800 MHz band and immediately detected a powerful signal at the 2 o'clock position where the light had blinked out.

No. 2 monitor was checked against known ground stations, and was found to be operating normally, and John J. Provenzano thereupon retuned No. 1 monitor and obtained a signal from the same bearing.

RED GLOW

Due to the RB-47's movement, signals from fixed ground sources changed position on the monitor tubes, as expected, but the signal from the UFO maintained the same position.

Major Chase thereupon radioed the GCI radar station at Carswell AFB and was told that the RB-47, indentified by its IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) response, was being tracked, as well as an unknown 'aircraft' with no IFF, ten miles from the plane in the 2 o'clock position!

The pilot and his crew felt a little uneasy, especially when both GCI Carswell and the No. 2 monitor reported the UFO as moving to dead ahead, and it was there that it re-appeared as a bright red glow 'as big as a house'.

When the UFO veered off between Dallas and Fort Worth, Major Chase obtained FAA clearance to follow it. GCI then reported that the UFO had stopped dead, and the plane closed rapidly with it, only for the pilots to see it blink out again at 20,000 feet.

DISAPPEARED

Seconds later it was reported by the radars to be behind the plane. The skipper put the plane into a turn, and, obtaining permission, dived towards the object from 35,000 feet only to see it blink out again at 20,000 feet.

As fuel was running low, the pilot now decided to return to base, and headed toward Oklahoma at 25,000 feet, with GCI and his No. 2 monitor reporting the UFO still in attendance 10 miles behind the plane. Over southern Oklahoma the UFO gave up the 'game' and just disappeared.

Throughout 600 miles this UFO had behaved as though intelligently controlled. Other UFOs have been reported closer to the ground, and 'occupants' have been seen as in the case of the policeman at Socorro, New Mexico (issue 20). In issue 23 you will be able to read about a UFO and an 'occupant' which was seen recently by two men in Finland.

● by **CHARLES BOWEN** Editor of Flying Saucer Review

FIREBALL XL5

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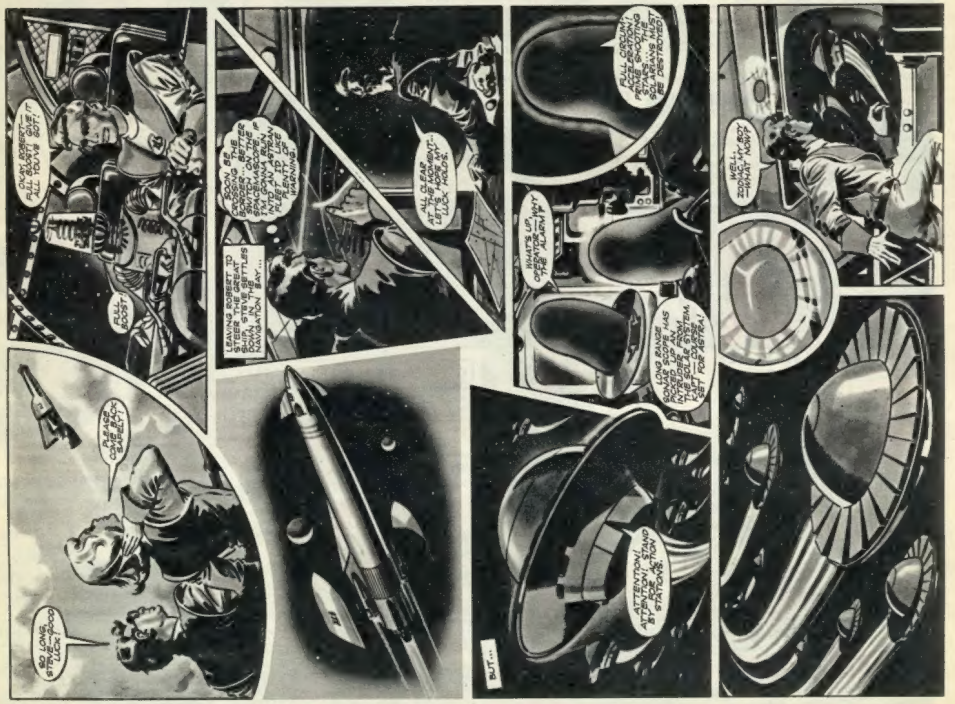
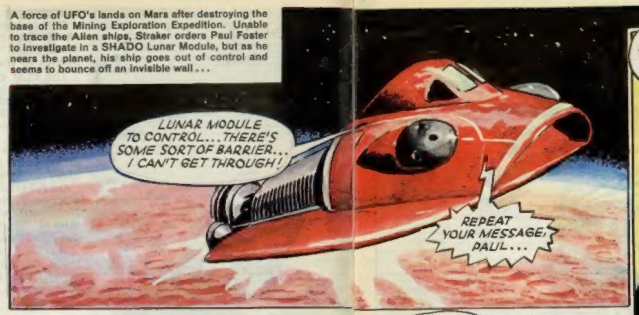


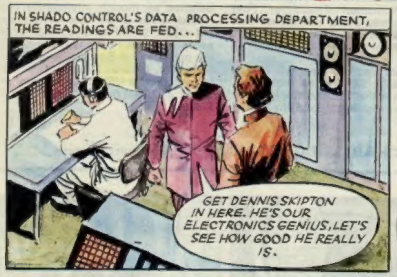
To be continued!

The Force Field

A force of UFO's lands on Mars after destroying the base of the Mining Exploration Expedition. Unable to trace the Alien ships, Straker orders Paul Foster to investigate in a SHADO Lunar Module, but as he nears the planet, his ship goes out of control and seems to bounce off an invisible wall . . .



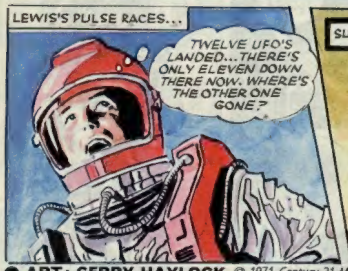
...YOUR SIGNALS ARE ONLY STRENGTH ONE... THERE'S A LOT OF INTERFERENCE.
THE ON-BOARD COMPUTERS ARE REGISTERING MASSIVE ELECTRICAL FORCES... AND MY CONTROLS ARE GOING CRAZY.


IN SHADO CONTROL'S DATA PROCESSING DEPARTMENT, THE READINGS ARE FED...
GET DENNIS SKIPTON IN HERE. HE'S OUR ELECTRONICS GENIUS, LET'S SEE HOW GOOD HE REALLY IS.

THE YOUNG FORCE-FIELD SPECIALIST IS SOON ANALYSING FOSTER'S PROBLEM...
WOW! THIS IS REALLY SOMETHING. IT'S A FORCE-FIELD SIMILAR TO MINE BUT MUCH MORE SOPHISTICATED!

QUIT THE ADMIRATION, SKIPTON! CAN YOU FIND A WAY TO PENETRATE IT?
I'LL NEED TIME, COMMANDER. BUT, YES, I THINK I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SOLVE IT.

MEANWHILE, ON THE MARTIAN SURFACE, GEOLOGIST JACK LEWIS KEEPS WATCH ON THE UFO'S...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? THE ENTIRE BASE WIPED OUT IN ONE ATTACK BY THOSE SHIPS...



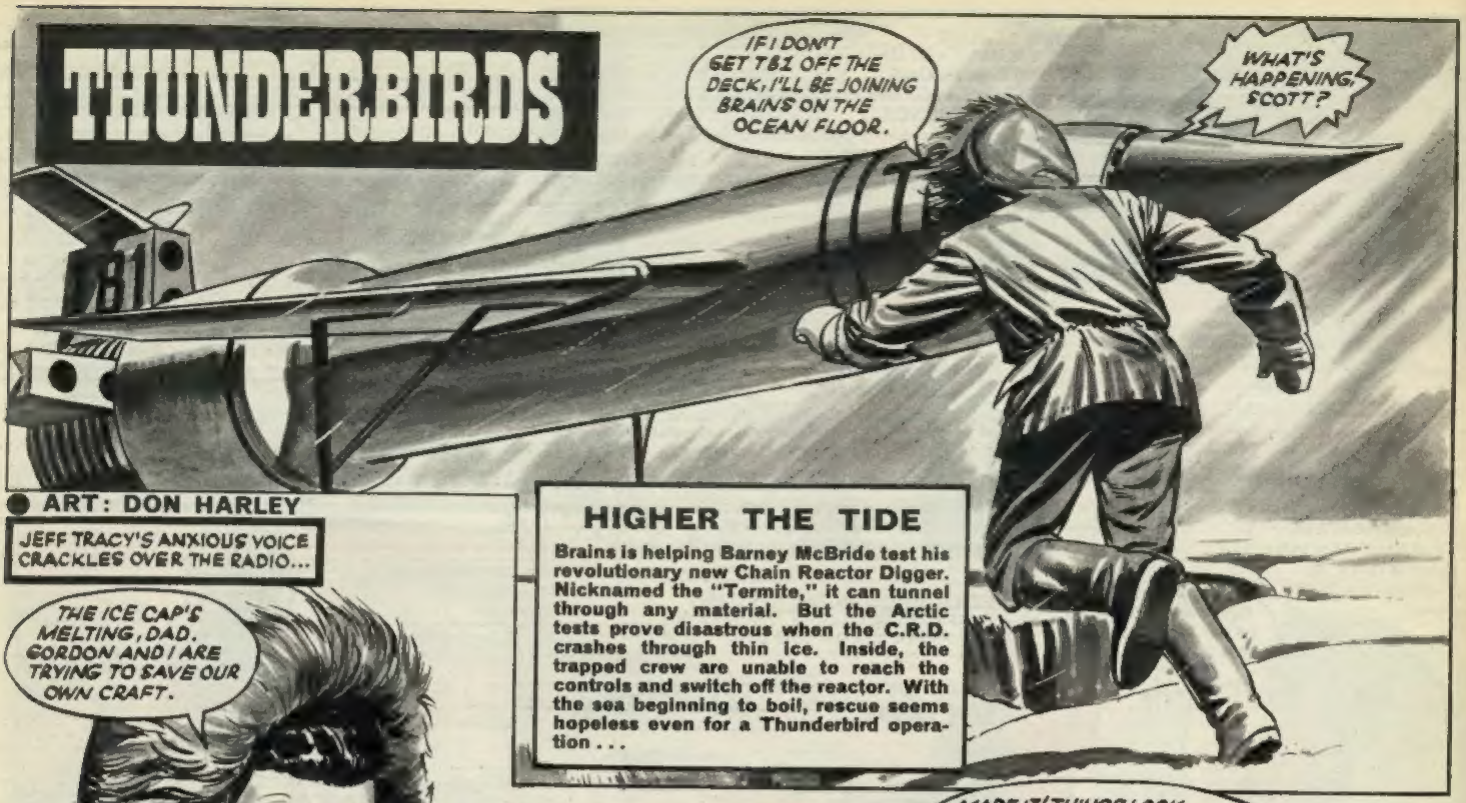
● ART: GERRY HAYLOCK © 1971 Century 21 M. Ltd.

SATISFIED, THE ALIEN PILOT BREAKS OFF HIS ATTACK. SECONDS LATER A DAZED FIGURE CRAWLS FROM THE WRECKAGE...
OUCH... MY HEAD. MUST HIDE... AND GET HELP...

MEANWHILE, PAUL FOSTER HAS RETURNED TO MOONBASE...
SID TO MOONBASE... EMERGENCY RED ALERT— TREBLE PRIORITY. S/X UFO'S SIGHTED... BEARING 4-F-ZERO...
MORE OF THEM... AND ON THE SAME COURSE... MARS!

THEY'RE GOING DOWN TO THE SURFACE.
THAT MEANS THE ALIENS WILL HAVE TO OPEN UP THE BARRIER FOR THEM TO ENTER. MAYBE THIS IS THE CHANCE WE NEED TO LOCATE THEIR LANDING POSITION.

THUNDERBIRDS

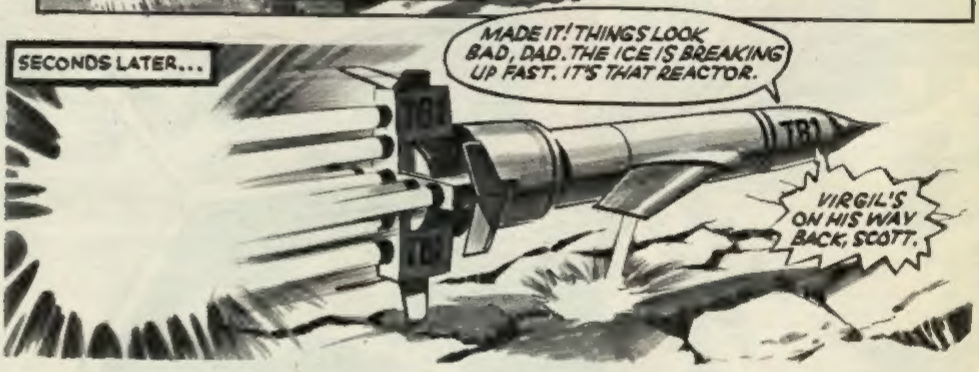


● ART: DON HARLEY

HIGHER THE TIDE

Brains is helping Barney McBride test his revolutionary new Chain Reactor Digger. Nicknamed the "Termite," it can tunnel through any material. But the Arctic tests prove disastrous when the C.R.D. crashes through thin ice. Inside, the trapped crew are unable to reach the controls and switch off the reactor. With the sea beginning to boil, rescue seems hopeless even for a Thunderbird operation . . .

JEFF TRACY'S ANXIOUS VOICE CRACKLES OVER THE RADIO...



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I'LL HAVE TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT. IT LOOKS PRETTY HOPELESS, BUT KEEP ON TRYING.
F.A.B. WE'LL DO OUR BEST, DAD.
SCOTT OPENS HIS COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL TO THUNDERBIRD 4...
IF WE CAN'T DE-ACTIVATE THAT REACTOR THE WHOLE ICE CAP WILL MELT.
THAT WOULD PUT HALF THE COASTS OF THE WORLD UNDER WATER. BUT I CAN'T SEE HOW WE CAN STOP IT, SCOTT.

MEANWHILE, IN THE WRECKED CRD...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BRAINS?
I'VE JUST HAD A P-PRIMITIVE IDEA, BARNEY. I'M...ER... GOING TO TRY AND LASSO THAT CONTROL STICK.
MUSTN'T RUSH THINGS... TAKE A NICE C-CAREFUL AIM, HORATIO HACKENBACKER...

ON THE POLAR SURFACE TB2 HAS ARRIVED...
MOVING INTO POSITION, SCOTT...
F.A.B.... LOWERING UNDERWATER TV CAMERA...
THE HIGHLY SENSITIVE CAMERA PINPOINTS THE EXACT SPOT OF THE STRICKEN 'TERMITE'.
SECONDS LATER...
WHAT'S THE RESULT, VIRGIL?
CONTACT WITH TWO, SCOTT... I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S GOING TO BE ENOUGH... DRAT IT! NOW THE PICTURE'S GONE.
SCOTT REPORTS TO TRACY ISLAND...
ONLY TWO LINES MADE CONTACT AND WE'VE LOST THE USE OF THE UNDERWATER CAMERA!
TIME'S RUNNING OUT, SCOTT. ALREADY THAT REACTOR'S HAVING AN EFFECT ON WORLD WEATHER.
THE WORLD PRESIDENT HAS GIVEN YOU ANOTHER TWO HOURS TO LIFT THE TERMITE OFF THE SEABED. THEN...
AND THEN WHAT, DAD?
YOU DESTROY THE TERMITE!
HORRIFIED, ALL THE TRACY BOYS RESPOND AT ONCE...
BUT, FATHER...
WHAT ABOUT BRAINS?
WE CAN'T...
WE COULDN'T DO IT.
NOT THAT, DAD.
KNOWING THAT BRAINS' LIFE IS ENTIRELY IN HIS HANDS, VIRGIL OPERATES THE CONTROL WHICH WILL SAVE HIM, OR SEND HIM TO HIS DOOM...
TOTALLY IGNORANT OF HIS DEATH SENTENCE, BRAINS TRIES YET AGAIN TO REACH THE REACTOR SWITCH...
IF THAT REACTOR ISN'T STOPPED SOON WE'LL BE BOILED ALIVE!

HANNA-BARBERA'S

DASTARDLY AND MUTTLEY

THE C.O. OF VULTURE SQUADRON IS ANGRY.
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU TWO DEAD BEATS EARNED YOUR KEEP. I WANT YOU TO FIND OUT WHERE THE ENEMY'S NEW SECRET H.Q. IS.
FUNNY YOU SHOULD MENTION THAT, GENERAL. IT'S JUST WHAT I WAS SAYING TO MUTTLEY.
THE BIG LIAR!
WITH THIS BAT PLANE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THAT PIGEON SECRETLY TO HIS ULTIMATE DESTINATION!
OVER ENEMY TERRITORY?
EEEEEK!
HERE IS A BAT HAT DISGUISE, DASTARDLY.
GULP! YOU DO ME A GREAT HONOUR, SIR.
HEE, HEE! GLAD HE'S FIRST IN THE BATTING ORDER.
MINUTES LATER...
WHEN WE SPOT THE PIGEON YOU'LL MARK HIS COURSE ON THE MAP.
O.K., BATMAN, I MEAN, CAPTAIN.
PIGEON TEN O'CLOCK HIGH!
A SUCCESSFUL MISSION WILL GUARANTEE US A MEDAL, MUTTLEY. SO DON'T MESS IT UP.
BUT THEN...
ARE YOU PLOTTING THE COURSE, MUTTLEY?
OF COURSE. EVERY LITTLE PORT AND STARBOARD NOTED. THAT'S NASTY WEATHER AHEAD, CAPTAIN.
BOOM
DRAT IT! WE'VE LOST THE PIGEON...
...AND THE MAP! OOOPS...
KRAK
AS THE STORM CLEARS...
D'YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE MUTTLEY?
NO, CAPTAIN... WE'D BETTER STOP AND ASK THE WAY.
WE'RE IN LUCK, MUTTLEY. THERE'S THE PIGEON.
LOOKS A BATTY LOOKING PIGEON TO ME.
THERE HE GOES. THIS MUST BE THE SECRET H.Q.. YOU GO AND DOUBLE CHECK.
WHY ME?
SOON...
NOT NO
IS ANYONE AT HOME?... EEEK WHAT'S THAT?... JUST A STUPID BAT!
WHAP
BUZZ OFF BAT!
COME BACK AND FIGHT LIKE A TRUE VAMPIRE, YOU COWARD!
ANOTHER FINE MESS YOU'VE GOT US INTO, YOU DUM DUM...
HOW WAS I TO KNOW THE LITTLE BAT WAS A RELATION OF HIS?...

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SPACE SPOT

Amateur Satellites in Orbit

"HAMS" are amateur radio enthusiasts who talk to each other over the air. There are about half a million of them dotted around the world, each with his own call sign.

They have pioneered a number of advances in radio communications in the past 50 years. More recently they have been proving that space research isn't only for the experts.

In the past ten years thousands of hams have been talking to each other through communications satellites which they built themselves and got into orbit by hitch-hiking a lift on American rockets.

So far, five amateur satellites have been launched, and another will be assembled and ready to go by the end of this year.

They are known as the Oscar satellites, which is short for Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio.

The idea for a satellite link for hams came from a group of amateurs in California. They went on to build the first four Oscars and the equipment for them.

Oscar 1 was a midget satellite, weighing only 10 pounds, and was powered by a single battery. Yet 600 keen hams picked up its signals.

It hitched a ride aboard a U.S. Air Force satellite, Discoverer 36, on December 12, 1961. Oscar 1 entered an orbit with a perigee of 146 miles and an apogee of 258 miles.

Radio transmissions lasted for 18 days, though Oscar managed to survive for 50 days as the extremely thin atmosphere gradually slowed it down until it burned up in the atmosphere on January 31, 1962.

Oscar 2 was launched June 2, 1962 into a 129-240 mile orbit. It carried more batteries and was still bleeping when it fell back to earth 19 days later.

Oscar 3 was more advanced, weighing 30 pounds, and made two-way radio contacts possible. Oscar 4 linked Russian and American hams.

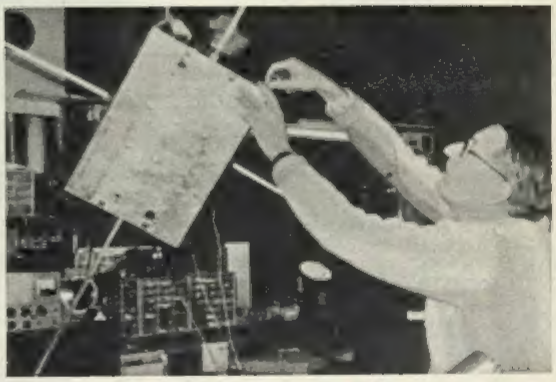
Oscar 5 was built by a group of university students in Australia. It hitch-hiked into space with a weather satellite in 1970 and operated for 46 days.

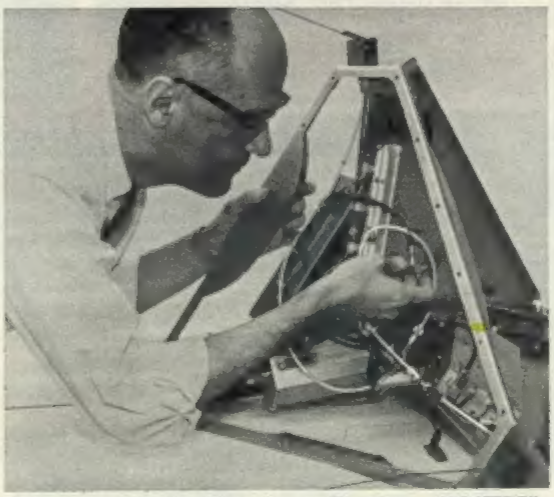
Hams in nearly 30 countries experimented with the first five Oscars. So, as you can imagine, they're eagerly awaiting Oscar 6.

Top: Oscar I is installed aboard the Agena stage of a Thor-Agena B booster.

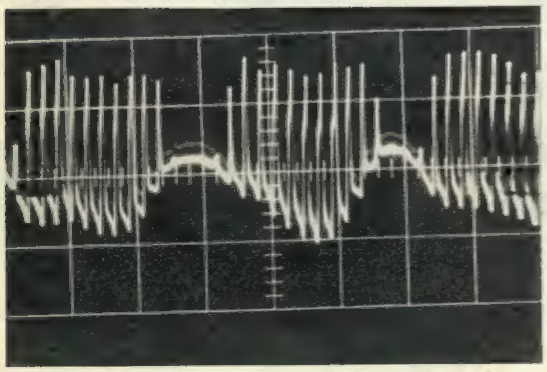
Left: All Oscars have hitch-hiked into orbit with other satellites. Then they separate and follow independent paths.

Right: Oscar 2 was built by radio amateurs in San Francisco





Above: Herb Gleed, call sign W6ZPX, checks the wiring in Oscar 4.



Left : The Oscar 3 telemetry signal shown on an oscilloscope.

DOES IT MEAN ANYTHING, DOCTOR?

A SIMPLE CONVERSION AND WE ARE THERE, MY DEAR.

MINUTES LATER...

TRANDI... ARE WE HERE? OOH, MY HEAD. IS THIS ONE OF OUR VOGAN FRIENDS?

OH, FATHER... THANK GOODNESS.

WHY ARE YOU CRYING... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DOOMED TO JUST BEING A VOGAN SLAVE.

TRANDI'S FATHER, BRANLL AND THE OTHER CRALLICANS ARE TOLD OF THE ENTIRE VOGAN SCHEME...

THEN MY ORIGINAL FEARS WERE JUSTIFIED. WE ARE TO BE THEIR SLAVES.

WHY DID YOU REVIVE US? WE WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER LEFT IN IGNORANCE.

IF YOU FOLLOW MY ORDERS, YOU COULD RID THE GALAXY OF AN EVIL POWER AND FIND YOURSELVES A NEW HOME.

NOT LONG AFTER...

IF JUST ONE OF THEM GIVES THE GAME AWAY WE'RE ALL DEAD.

DR. WHO'S PATIENT PLAN TO CONTROL THE VOGAN ROBOTS PROCEEDS WITH THE SUBSTITUTION OF YET ANOTHER...

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF THE VOGANS HAVE FOUND OUT?

AT A GUESS I'D SAY WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL THE LAST PRISONER LEAVES THE SPACE SHIP.

THEN THEY'LL PROBABLY KILL ME AND RE-PROCESS YOU TOGETHER WITH THE OTHERS.

● ART : HARRY LINDFIELD © 1971 BBC tv

ON THE VOGAN PLANET THE ARRIVAL OF THE LIFE-GIVING CONSIGNMENT IS CHECKED

HAS HE SUSPECTED ANYTHING? HE'S CERTAINLY GIVING US A CAREFUL SCRUTINY.

WOULD IT NOT BE BETTER TO TEST THEM FOR CONTROL VALUE?

THE NEED FOR VOGANITE IS DESPERATE. THERE IS NO TIME FOR SUCH LUXURIES AS REPROCESSING. THEY MUST BE WORKED AT ONCE.

AND SO THE SHUTTLE GOES ON WITH THE TARDIS REPEATING ITS JOURNEY BETWEEN SPACE SHIP AND PLANET WITH THE TIME TRAVELLER REMOVING ONE OF THE VOGAN ROBOTS AND REPROGRAMMING ITS CONTROL FACTOR. LATE THAT EVENING THE FINAL JOURNEY IS MADE...

WHY CAN'T I COME AS WELL, DOCTOR?

DON'T WORRY, TRANDI. I'LL BE BACK.

DEEP BENEATH THE GROUND THE VOGANS FOLLOW DR. WHO'S PROGRESS WITH INTEREST...

DO WE KILL HIM NOW?

NO! WE HAVE FINISHED WITH HIM AND HIS SPACE CRAFT. HE SHALL GET HIS REWARD.

AND SO...

I HAVE KEPT MY PART OF THE BARGAIN. WHERE IS THE REWARD YOU PROMISED?

THE VOGANS ALSO KEEP THEIR WORD, DOCTOR WHO.

BUT THEN A SMALL VOICE CRIES OUT IN REPULSION...

IT'S HORRIBLE... I'M FRIGHTENED.

WHAT THE...

Brigadier LETHBRIDGE STEWART

Real name, actor Nicholas Courtney. A regular in the Dr. Who team for last three years. Although no great Army careerist himself (serving as a non-commissioned man in Germany), 41-year-old Nick Courtney comes from a military family—his father, a major, and his uncle an Air Marshal. Thus, his authentic portrayal as the head of U.N.I.T. (United Nations Intelligence Task Force). Most of his schooldays were spent in Egypt and Kenya, which is probably the main reason for his favourite pastime, swimming. Likes filming but his real love is the stage.

countdown at ..... MORE NEXT WEEK!

Child's Play

The year is 3015, and planet Earth's ever-expanding space exploration programme takes three astronauts to a small planet in the far-distant star system of Cenus Alphin. The planet—named Caplicon—is thought to be uninhabited . . . but as Earth's pioneers prepare for their first landwalk . . .

● ART: MALCOLM STOKES

HELLO, MUST BE VISITORS FROM ANOTHER PLANET... I COULD HAVE SOME FUN WITH THEM.

Countdown Complete

THE CAPLICONIAN BOY JUMPS OUT ON THE UNSUSPECTING EARTHMEN...

YAAAAAAH!

WHAT THE...

AGH...

STOP IT, YOU YOUNG MONSTER!

COME ON— YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT! LET'S HAVE A REAL FIGHT!

WHY, YOU YOUNG DEVIL... I'LL TEACH YOU TO...

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

BUT...

YOU LITTLE BRAT! I'LL...

JUST HOLD IT THERE! WHO ARE YOU, LAD? SPEAK UP OR I'LL BE SORELY TEMPTED TO USE THIS...

I'M NOT FRIGHTENED OF YOUR PUNY WEAPON...

NEXT MOMENT...

WHA... WHERE... WHERE ARE YOU? COME ON OUT!

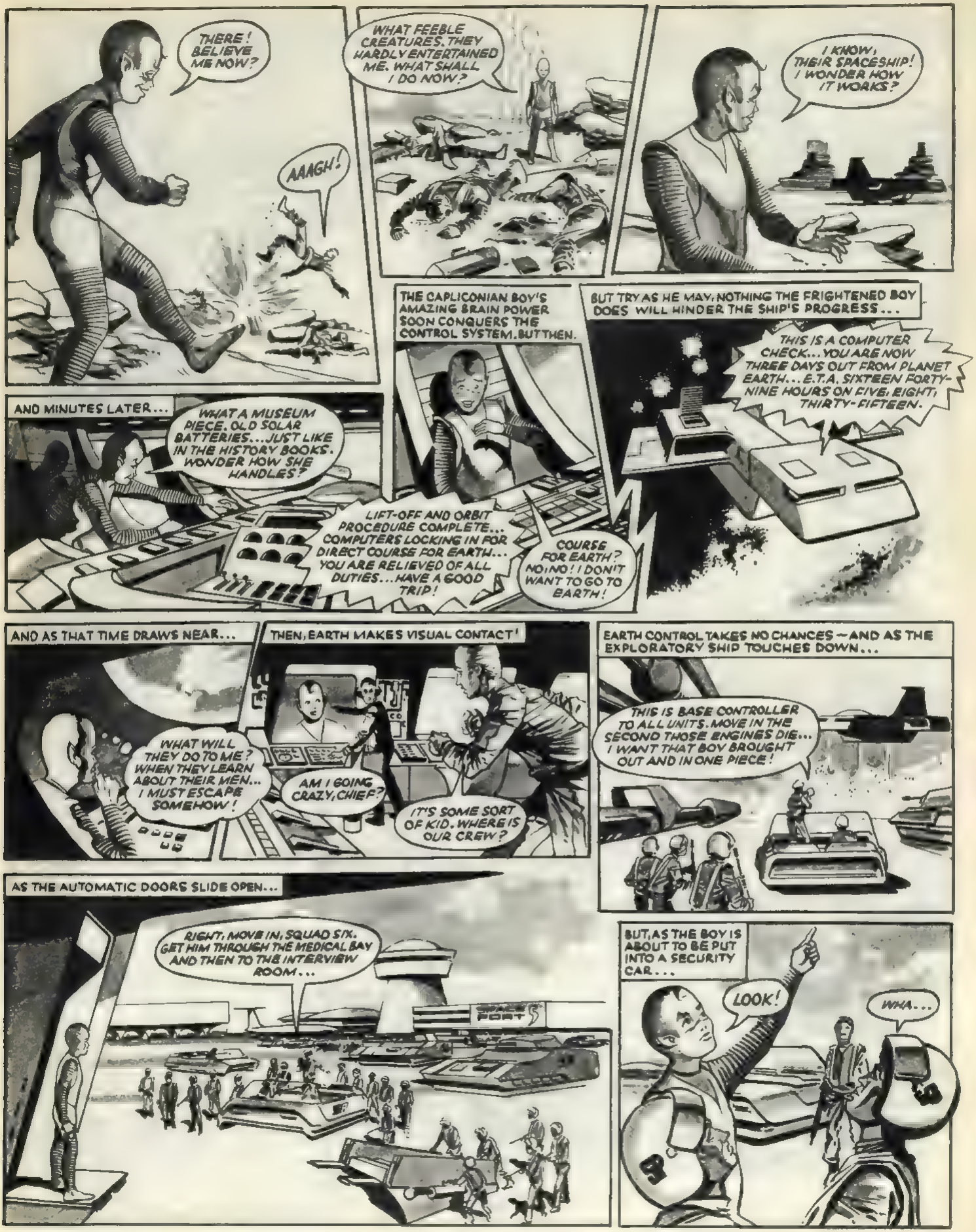
THIS'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO GET BEHIND HIM!

HEY! BEHIND YOU!

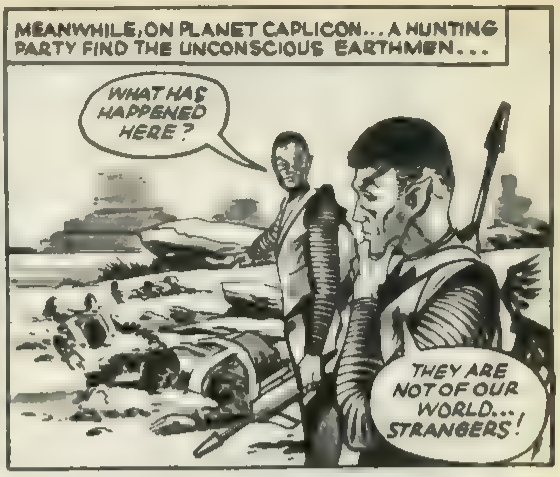
HOW DID YOU...

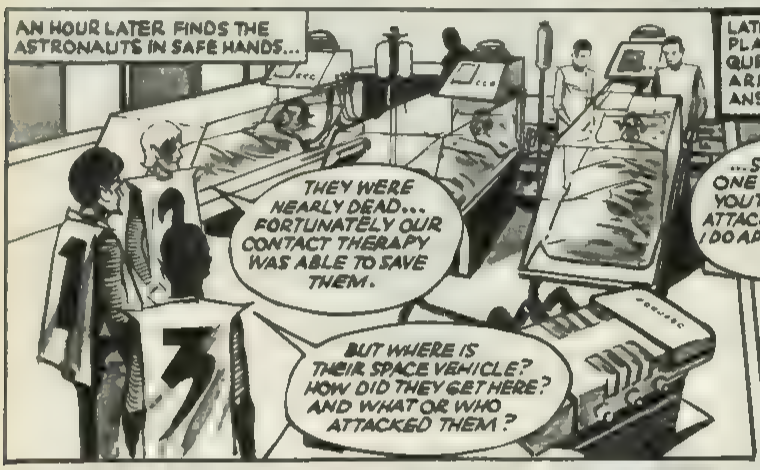
!— I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

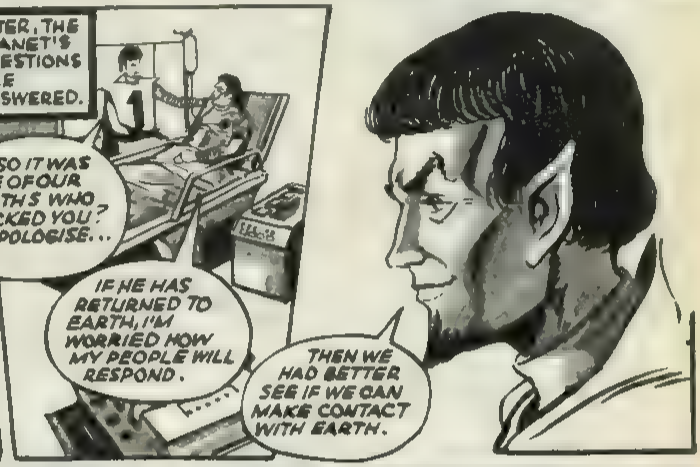
WHY NOT? I'M REAL ENOUGH...

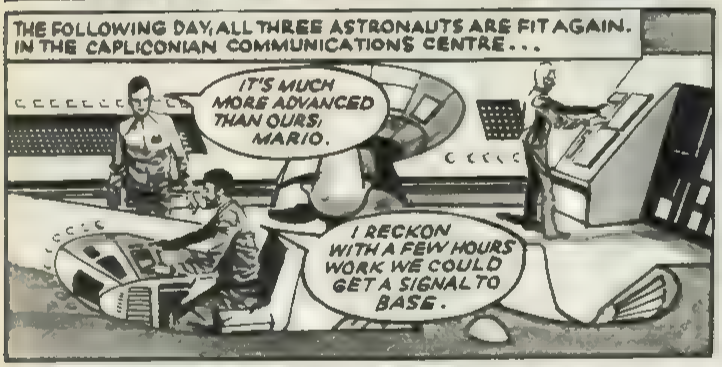

THERE! BELIEVE ME NOW?
AAAGH!
WHAT FEEBLE CREATURES. THEY HARDLY ENTERTAINED ME. WHAT SHALL I DO NOW?
I KNOW, THEIR SPACESHIP! I WONDER HOW IT WORKS?
THE CAPLICONIAN BOY'S AMAZING BRAIN POWER SOON CONQUERS THE CONTROL SYSTEM. BUT THEN.
BUT TRY AS HE MAY, NOTHING THE FRIGHTENED BOY DOES WILL HINDER THE SHIP'S PROGRESS...
THIS IS A COMPUTER CHECK... YOU ARE NOW THREE DAYS OUT FROM PLANET EARTH... E.T.A. SIXTEEN FORTY-NINE HOURS ON FIVE, EIGHT, THIRTY-FIFTEEN.
AND MINUTES LATER...
WHAT A MUSEUM PIECE. OLD SOLAR BATTERIES... JUST LIKE IN THE HISTORY BOOKS. WONDER HOW SHE HANDLES?
LIFT-OFF AND ORBIT PROCEDURE COMPLETE... COMPUTERS LOCKING IN FOR DIRECT COURSE FOR EARTH... YOU ARE RELIEVED OF ALL DUTIES... HAVE A GOOD TRIP!
COURSE FOR EARTH? NO! NO! I DON'T WANT TO GO TO EARTH!
AND AS THAT TIME DRAWS NEAR...
WHAT WILL THEY DO TO ME? WHEN THEY LEARN ABOUT THEIR MEN... I MUST ESCAPE SOMEHOW!
THEN, EARTH MAKES VISUAL CONTACT!
AM I GOING CRAZY, CHIEF?
IT'S SOME SORT OF KID. WHERE IS OUR CREW?
EARTH CONTROL TAKES NO CHANCES — AND AS THE EXPLORATORY SHIP TOUCHES DOWN...
THIS IS BASE CONTROLLER TO ALL UNITS. MOVE IN THE SECOND THOSE ENGINES DIE... I WANT THAT BOY BROUGHT OUT AND IN ONE PIECE!
AS THE AUTOMATIC DOORS SLIDE OPEN...
RIGHT, MOVE IN, SQUAD SIX. GET HIM THROUGH THE MEDICAL BAY AND THEN TO THE INTERVIEW ROOM...
SPACE PORT
BUT, AS THE BOY IS ABOUT TO BE PUT INTO A SECURITY CAR...
LOOK!
WHA...

ONE SECOND IS ENOUGH FOR THE BOY TO ESCAPE...
HE'S GONE! THE KID'S VANISHED!
I WANT HIM FOUND! HE'S THE ONLY CLUE TO WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR MEN!


MEANWHILE, ON PLANET CAPLICON... A HUNTING PARTY FIND THE UNCONSCIOUS EARTHMEN...
WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE?
THEY ARE NOT OF OUR WORLD... STRANGERS!


AN HOUR LATER FINDS THE ASTRONAUTS IN SAFE HANDS...
THEY WERE NEARLY DEAD... FORTUNATELY OUR CONTACT THERAPY WAS ABLE TO SAVE THEM.
BUT WHERE IS THEIR SPACE VEHICLE? HOW DID THEY GET HERE? AND WHAT OR WHO ATTACKED THEM?


LATER, THE PLANET'S QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED.
...SO IT WAS ONE OF OUR YOUTHS WHO ATTACKED YOU? I DO APOLOGISE...
IF HE HAS RETURNED TO EARTH, I'M WORRIED HOW MY PEOPLE WILL RESPOND.
THEN WE HAD BETTER SEE IF WE CAN MAKE CONTACT WITH EARTH.


THE FOLLOWING DAY, ALL THREE ASTRONAUTS ARE FIT AGAIN. IN THE CAPLICONIAN COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE...
IT'S MUCH MORE ADVANCED THAN OURS, MARIO.
I RECKON WITH A FEW HOURS WORK WE COULD GET A SIGNAL TO BASE.

USING THE LATEST ULTRA SCAN TRACKING TECHNIQUES THE BOY'S POSITION IS FINALLY ESTABLISHED...
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN AND BE PREPARED FOR ACTION! IF NECESSARY... MOVE IN!

FOR THE RECORD

Major Events in the Apollo 14 Mission

Date (1971)	Time (EST)	Event
Jan. 31	1603	Launch.
	1837	Rocket ignition to leave Earth orbit and head for Moon.
Feb. 1	2239	Transfer manoeuvre for better initial loop of Moon.
Feb. 4	0200	Rocket ignition to slow down Apollo 14 so that it orbits the Moon.
	0241	Upper rocket stage of Saturn 5 strikes Moon, which vibrates for three hours after impact.
	0614	Rocket ignition to place perilune of Apollo 14 within 50,000 feet of Moon, the closest that a complete Apollo spaceship has ever come.
	2351	Separation of Kitty Hawk and Antares.
Feb. 5	0405	Antares landing rocket ignites.
	0417	Antares lands in Fra Mauro region of Moon—Lunar co-ordinates 3°40' S. by 17°28' W.
	0950	Shepard exits from Antares, followed by Mitchell. Among activities are gathering of rock

Continued on page 4

MINUTES LATER...
O.K., KID. JUST STAY PEACEFUL AND NO HARM WILL COME TO YOU.
I MUST GET AWAY!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
YOU CAN'T HURT ME! I'LL SHOW YOU!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
IT'S INCREDIBLE! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
THE BOY BECOMES A WALKING BULLDOZER!
THE WORLD PRESIDENT IS INFORMED...
PLAY IT COOL, COMMANDER. MAKE SURE NOBODY TRIES TO INJURE THIS BOY—WE MUST TRY TO CALM HIM. HE COULD TEAR THIS CITY APART.
BUT BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S ORDERS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED...
OPEN FIRE!
OWWW!
THE BOY RETALIATES VICIOUSLY!
AAAAAH!
I'LL TEACH YOU TO HURT ME!
A NEARBY AIR BASE IS ALERTED...
THIS IS THE PRESIDENT... DRIVE THAT BOY SOUTH TO THE DESERT. WE MUST GET HIM ON OPEN GROUND BEFORE WE DARE TRY TO STOP HIM!
53 OP

countdown
The crew ... successful rescue ... Bill the ... Moon prospector George Barnes ... arrive ... a mysterious delay ...
WHERE VE YOU BEEN, BILL? WE WERE BEGINNING TO THINK PERHAPS THE ZEPHYRMEN HAD CAUGHT UP WITH YOU.
MY VISIT TO THE MOON WAS MORE THAN WORTHWHILE MARC.
I'D SAY THAT WAS AN UNDERSTATEMENT, BILL SAVING GRANT AND GEORGE ALSO SAVED COUNTDOWN.
AH, BUT THAT'S ONLY HALF THE SUCCESS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, BILL?
MY STUDIES IN MR. BARNES' LABORATORY WERE MOST FRUITFUL. AMAZING AS IT MAY SEEM THE ORIGIN OF YOUR MOON MUST HAVE BEEN IN MY STAR SYSTEM...
THESE ARE SOME OF THE WONDERFUL CRYSTALS NATIVE TO MY OWN PLANET.
WHAT EXACTLY DOES THIS DISCOVERY MEAN?
IT MEANS FOR A START I CAN BUILD NEW WHISPER WHEELS. IT ALSO MEANS WITH THE HELP OF MR. BARNES' KNOWLEDGE OF THE MOON THAT IT IS WITHIN OUR POWER TO RELEASE IT FROM COSTRA'S GRASP.
ON EARTH A SPECIAL MEETING IS CONVENED BY WILLIAM COSTRA, THE EVIL EARTH CONTROLLER...
MYSTERIOUS CREATURES FROM OUT OF SPACE. ZEPHYR VEHICLES ATTACKING EACH OTHER. RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS FALLING ASLEEP ON DUTY...
I'M BEGINNING TO SUSPECT THAT AMONGST THOSE PRESENT IS ONE WHO SCHEMES MY DOWNFALL AND THAT OF THE 'COMPANY'.
TO COUNTER SUCH DELUDED DREAMS I INTEND TO STRENGTHEN OUR LUNAR DEFENCES AND PURGE OUR OWN ORGANISATION.

● ART: JOHN BURNS SPACECRAFT DESIGNS FROM THE MGM FILM 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

BE CERTAIN, GENTLEMEN. THIS OUTRAGE WAS NO ACCIDENT. IT WAS ORGANISED BY AN INTELLIGENT ADVERSARY AND WILLIAM COSTRA MEANS TO FIND THE CULPRIT!

THE CONFERENCE CONCLUDED, COSTRA CALLS COLONEL NIFE TO HIS OFFICE...

IS IT A COINCIDENCE, NIFE, OR MY IMAGINATION? OUR PROBLEMS ALL BEGAN WITH THE RETURN OF THAT INFERNAL STARSHIP 'COUNTDOWN'.

I SUPPOSE IT IS SIGNIFICANT, CONTROLLER. BUT HARDLY POSSIBLE...

EVEN SO, I THINK A DEEP SOLAR PATROL OUGHT TO MAKE A FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE ASTEROID BELT. IF COUNTDOWN HAS SURVIVED, I MUST KNOW.

TO BE CONTINUED!

COUNTDOWN, A STARSHIP OF THE JUPITER CLASS SENT FROM EARTH TO EXPLORE THE STAR SYSTEM TAU CETI. AFTER A SUCCESSFUL 50-YEAR MISSION HER RETURN TO EARTH IS MET WITH A MISSILE ATTACK. MIRACULOUSLY COUNTDOWN ESCAPES.

MARC ZERO — COUNTDOWN COMMANDER

BELLA ONE — ELECTRONIC EXPERT.

GRANT TWO — COUNTDOWN PILOT AND CHIEF ROCKET ENGINEER.

TOKO FIVE — ZOOLOGIST.

FELIX FOUR — ASTRAL NAVIGATOR

THELMA THREE — SPACE BIOLOGIST.

BIKLL — THE ALIEN NICK-NAMED 'BILL'. ONE OF A SUPERIOR RACE BROUGHT BACK TO EARTH AS AN AMBASSADOR. NOW DEDICATED TO FREE EARTH

EARTH, THE PLANET DOMINATED BY A SINISTER ORGANISATION KNOWN AS THE 'COMPANY'

EARTH CONTROLLER WILLIAM JOHANNES COSTRA. DESPOTIC LEADER OF THE 'COMPANY'.

COLONEL NIFE — CONTROLLER OF THE ZEPHYRMEN

THE ZEPHYRMEN — EARTH'S DREADED SECRET POLICE.

SAM BELLINGHAM. LEADER OF THE FREE LUNAR PEOPLE. NOW IMPRISONED ON EARTH BY COSTRA FOR WARNING COUNTDOWN OF EARTH'S MISSILE ATTACK.

MAJOR RITTER. LUNAR CONTROLLER AND HEAD OF COSTRA'S MOON OCCUPATION FORCE.

GEORGE BARNES. OLD LUNAR PROSPECTOR AND RETIRED ENGINEER. HAS SECRET HIDE-OUT ON MOON WHICH IS NOW USED BY COUNTDOWN AS A LUNAR BASE.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

THE FIGHTER PLANES MOVE IN...

GO AWAY! LEAVE ME ALONE!

THAT MOMENT, AT THE SPACE BASE, A FAINT RADIO SIGNAL IS RECEIVED...

CONTROLLER! I'M GETTING A SIGNAL FROM CAPLICON! IT'S OUR CREW...

AND SOON...

HE'S PRETTY WELL OUT OF CONTROL. WE'RE DOING OUR BEST NOT TO HARM HIM.

MINUTES LATER, THE CAPLICON LEADER LEARNS OF THE DISASTER...

HE'S CAUSED MORE DAMAGE THAN ANY MAJOR EARTHQUAKE.

BUT THIS IS TERRIBLE! THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY LEFT OPEN TO US.

THIS IS NUMBER ONE... ADOPT TIME VAULT PLAN THIRTEEN BETA. I NEED AN INTERPLANETARY SPACE CRAFT, RANGE EARTH AND RETURN. FIT FULL POWER REMETABOLISERS AND LIFE REGENERATORS.

THE EARTH CREW ARE BEWILDERED...

IN YOUR WORLD, THAT WOULD BE TRUE... BUT HERE ON CAPLICON WE ARE — ADVANCED. THE SHIP WILL BE READY WITHIN THE HOUR.

WHAT GOOD WILL THAT DO? IT'LL TAKE MONTHS TO BUILD A SPACE SHIP FOR THIS JOB...

JUST AS THE MIRACLE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SPACE CRAFT, SO THE NORMALLY LENGTHY JOURNEY TO EARTH IS CUT SHORT TO AN INCREDIBLE TWENTY MINUTES...

AND BEFORE SIXTY EARTH MINUTES PASS...

FANTASTIC! IT MUST BE A DREAM!

THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE...

LET US HURRY. THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE.

YOU WILL CONTACT YOUR SUPERIORS AND ASK FOR DETAILS OF THE DISASTER AREAS... AND THE LOCATION OF THE BOY...

AND SO...

THIS IS CAPLICON NUMBER ONE. STATE YOUR IDENTI-NUMBER AND ZONE. AND REDUCE TO SIZE 1A NORM — AT ONCE!

ER... YES, SIR. NUMBER FORTY-EIGHT, ZONE ELEVEN.

IMMEDIATELY, THE BOY SHRINKS TO HIS NORMAL HEIGHT — AND IS BEAMED ABOARD THE SHIP...

THE BOY'S IDENTITY CHECKS WITH THE LIST OF YOUTHS TRUANT FROM ONE OF OUR COLLEGES OF LEARNING... HE WILL BE DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY.

Continued from page 3

		specimens, setting up scientific instruments, setting up American flag, and placing and turning on TV cameras. EVA: 4 hours, 50 minutes.
Feb. 6	0311	Walk about three miles, collecting geological samples. Nearly reach the rim of Cone Crater. EVA: 4 hours, 35 minutes.
	1349	Antares lifts off from Moon.
	1535	Kitty Hawk and Antares are docked. Mating was direct rather than Antares first going into lunar orbit as Lunar Modules did on prior Apollo missions.
	1748	Antares is set adrift.
	1945	Antares strikes Moon, as planned.
	2039	Kitty Hawk finishes 34 orbits of the Moon and ignites rocket to break out of lunar orbit and head for home.
Feb. 9	1605	Kitty Hawk splashes down in Pacific Ocean south of Samoa, bringing back 96 pounds of Moon rock.

EVA: extra-vehicular activity (Moon walk).
EST: Eastern Standard Time. For British Standard Time, add six hours.
Perilune: the point in a lunar orbit closest to the Moon's surface.
Information in this table supersedes that in the Manned Spaceflight Log (Issue 12).

THEN, AS THE CAPLICON SHIP PASSES OVER THE DEVASTATED CITY...

BATHED IN THE MYSTERIOUS RAY, THE RUINS ARE RECONSTRUCTED AND THE PEOPLE COME TO LIFE AGAIN...

SUBWAY

THE CITY IS LEFT WITHOUT A SINGLE MARK TO SHOW FOR ITS TERRIFYING ORDEAL...

THIS IS SPACE BASE CONTROLLER CALLING CAPLICON NUMBER ONE... I HAVE THE PRESIDENT HERE — HE'D LIKE TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU, SIR.

THANK YOU, CONTROLLER. PLEASE GO AHEAD, MR. PRESIDENT.

ON BEHALF OF MY PEOPLE, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP, NUMBER ONE. WITHOUT THIS INTERVENTION WE WOULD HAVE SUFFERED A GREAT DISASTER.

IT WAS THE LEAST WE COULD DO. AFTER ALL, ONE OF OUR PEOPLE WAS THE OFFENDER.

TELL ME, NUMBER ONE... WHY IS IT THAT, WITH YOUR HIGHLY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, YOU ARE NOT THE LEADERS IN EXPLORATION OF THE UNIVERSE?

WE WERE — A THOUSAND YEARS AGO!

WE SET UP COLONIES, TO BRING BACK TREASURES — JUST AS YOU ARE DOING NOW. THE ABILITY TO ENLARGE OR REDUCE OUR BODIES WAS DEVELOPED TO FIT THE ENVIRONMENTS IN WHICH WE FOUND OURSELVES. BUT OUR AMBITIONS ONLY LED TO WAR.

EVENTUALLY WE FOUND PEACE ON OUR OWN PLANET AND TURNED OUR SKILLS TO OUR OWN MENTAL AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT. WE BROKE UP OUR SPACE CRAFT... AND FOUND CONTENTMENT.

NOW OUR SECRET IS OUT. STRANGERS WILL COME LOOKING FOR US FROM ALL OVER THE UNIVERSE...

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT, NUMBER ONE. BELIEVE ME, NOBODY WILL GET TO KNOW OF YOUR IDENTITY. YOU CAN RETURN TO YOUR PLANET WITH CONFIDENCE.

SOON THE THREE EARTH ASTRONAUTS ARE BEAMED DOWN FROM THE SHIP, AND IT GLIDES OUT INTO SPACE...

WHAT A WASTE OF TALENT, SKIPPER.

I DON'T THINK SO, JED. ISN'T IT SOMETHING TO HAVE DISCOVERED THE SECRET FOR PREVENTING WARS?

HTVBEF
Y7OASN
GDT315
COMP85

SHADO DATA

GEORGE SEWELL (Alias Alec Freeman)

George Sewell is a late-comer to the acting scene who, much to his own surprise, achieved immediate success in Joan Littlewood's production of "Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be", "Sparrows Can't Sing" and "Oh, What a Lovely War" (the last one introduced him to Broadway audiences).

Before this, he had worked in a variety of jobs but was principally a ship's steward on Cunard lines "Queen Mary" and "Caronia" and then a motor-coach courier.

He rapidly proved himself to be a natural actor, and his many films and TV productions include roles in "This Sporting Life", "The Informer", "The Vengeance of She", "Robbery", "Z Cars", "Mr. Rose", "Man in a Suitcase", "Private Eye" and "The Power Game".

When he went into the film "Doppelganger", as the security chief who murdered Herbert Lom, he was well on his way to the running role of Colonel Alec Freeman in "U.F.O." Gerry and Sylvia Anderson, impressed by his performance, immediately signed him for this leading role in their first live-action series.

GABRIELLE DRAKE (Alias Gay Ellis)

Gabrielle Drake (Gay for short) is 5' 5½", with light brown hair and green eyes. The character she portrays in "U.F.O.", Gay Ellis, the girl in command of Moonbase, has been named after her. She says: "I really can't remember the time when I didn't have acting ambitions. I suppose it was amateur drama at school that started it all. My only idea throughout my school-days was to go on to an acting academy."

She went to the Wycombe Abbey School for Girls and studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

During her two years at RADA, Gay won the Bronze Medal, and then joined a group of enthusiastic post-students who had founded a new theatre in Liverpool, the Everyman Theatre.

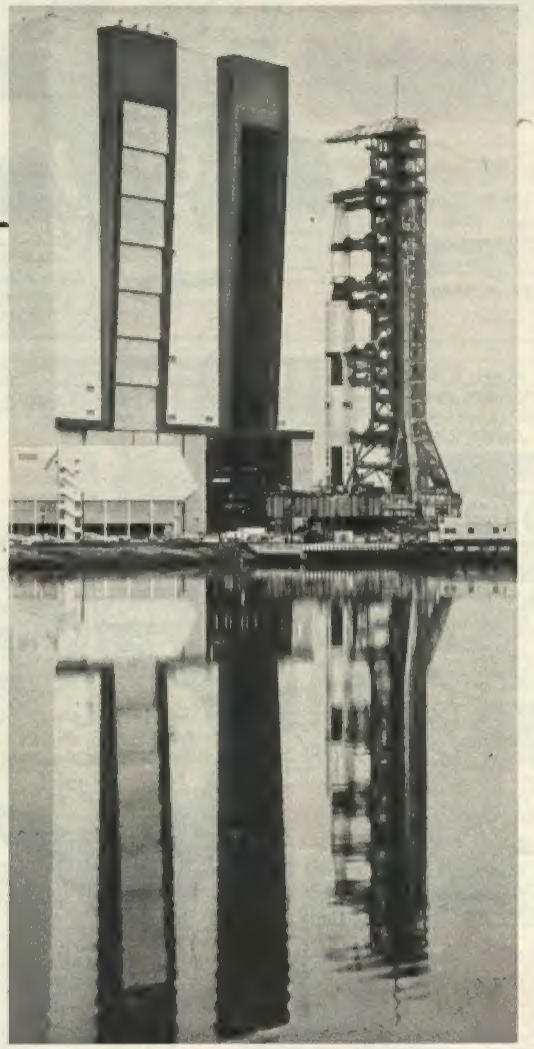
Gay's television debut was as a bio-chemist in "Intrigue", followed by the part of a thoroughly ruthless young lady in an episode of "The Avengers", the role of a University student in "Haunted" and the lead opposite Roger Moore in a segment of "The Saint", which led to her also appearing with him in his feature film "Crossplot".

THINK TANK!

Think Tank, Countdown, Polystyle Publications, 382-386 Edgware Road, London, W.2.

Moon Journey Begins

Reflected in the calm waters of the turning basin at Launch Complex 39 (right), the Apollo 15 Saturn 5 space vehicle inches slowly from the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB). The rocket travelled the 32-mile distance from the VAB to Launch Pad A in six hours.



The Red Spot—Barry's Theory

In response to the request you made in issue 12 about further suggestions for the famous Red Spot of Jupiter, I would like to put forward my 'theory' on this subject.

In most astronomy books, there is reference to Jupiter's twelve moons, but to begin my theory, I claim that once Jupiter had thirteen moons.

This thirteenth moon probably was very small, and orbiting Jupiter in a very unstable orbital path.

After many years, the tremendous gravitational pull of Jupiter tugged at this tiny moon, and gradually pulled it down towards the surface, in spiral fashion. The moon's structure finally collapsed, and scattered over a wide area of the planet's surface.

The dense atmosphere of the planet held the remaining fragments of the exploded moon in this area—25,000 miles long, and 7,000 miles wide.

The colour changes from 'light pink' to 'brick red' occur because the thick, gaseous atmosphere of Jupiter has preserved the molten-heat of the exploding moon, and as the heat 'pulsates', it appears to us, on Earth, to change into various shades of red.

Barry Glaze,
Loughton, Essex.

Another Countdown Reader Wins

Robin Davies writes to thank us for the great first prize he received in our telescope competition—a 234-power Prinz 330 telescope and Moon Flight Atlas. "My friend used to lend me his telescope; now I have my own."

Robin also says he likes reading about UFOs in Countdown. Let's hear from other Countdown fans—tell us what you like and don't like by sending in the Vote coupon which appeared last week on page 4.

Next week's Countdown:

- Designing the Lunar Rover
- Soyuz at the launch pad
- Living under the sea

HEXWORD

The Hexword is back again by popular request! Thanks to all the readers who pointed out the missing clue in the issue 6 Hexword—congratulations to those who correctly guessed that the word 'radical' was the missing one.

Now have a go at this one. Fill each triangle with one letter. The heavy triangles show where one word ends and another begins (with the same letter). The solutions read from left to right, horizontally and diagonally.

ACROSS

1. Comes after Saturn
3. Graf ....., German airship
7. Cloud of dust and gas in our Galaxy
8. Vends
12. Russian space station
13. Old English for beer

UP

1. Flying saucers
2. Three-man Russian spacecraft
7. Wanderers
8. Tranquil
9. County in N.E. Scotland
14. Fairy tale people
15. Closed

DOWN

1. Belonging to a town or city
3. Warlike tribe of South Africa
4. Protection in the rain
5. An ..... a day keeps the doctor away
6. No (French)
10. An atom bomb is a ..... weapon
11. Rodent

ANSWERS:

ACROSS 1. Uranus 3. Zeppelin 7. nebula 8. sells 12. Salyut 13. ale UP 1. UFOs 2. Soyuz 7. nomads 8. serene 9. Elgin 14. elves 15. shut DOWN 1. urban 3. Zulu 4. umbrella 5. apple 6. non 10. nuclear 11. rat

THE ADVENTURES OF

Super mousse

S.M. IS CALLED TO SILVERSTONE TO RACE THE NEW CRUMSWORTH VOLCANO, BRITAIN'S LATEST GRAND PRIX CAR.

VROOOOM

SHE'S RUNNING LIKE A BIRD.

THE VOLCANO HITS MAXIMUM ACCELERATION...

THE MAJOR'S CARBURETTOR IS SURE STANDING UP WELL.

BACK IN THE PITS S.M. REPORTS TO MAJOR CRUMSWORTH...

WELL DRIVEN, SUPER MOUSSE.

THAT CARBURETTOR SURE WORKS A TREAT, MAJOR.

AND SOON IT WILL BE MINE, SIGNORS.

GUIDO GASOLINO, MILLIONAIRE CAR OWNER, WATCHES S.M.'S PROGRESS.

WE MUST STOP EEM. HE IS A THREAT TO OUR CHANCES!

SI, SIGNOR GASOLINO.

BETTER KEEP IT SAFE, MAJOR.

YOU'RE RIGHT, SUPER MOUSSE, GUIDO GASOLINO WOULD LIKE TO GET HOLD OF IT.

TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE RACE...

SOMEONE'S STOLEN THE CARBURETTOR.

THAT'S GASOLINO'S CAR. THE DIRTY CROOK!

DON'T WORRY, I'LL GET IT BACK, MAJOR.

SUPER MOUSSE SINKS HIS TEETH INTO THAT DELICIOUS, POWER-PACKED BAR...

SUPER WHIPPED SUPERCHARGED CHOCOLATE MOUSSE.

COVERED IN REAL CHOCOLATE!

SOON S.M. IS AFTER THE CARBURETTOR KIDNAPPERS...

ZOOM

WE'LL DROP IT IN THE FIRST RIVER WE COME TO, LUIGI.

AND SO...

EEEK! IT'S DA DREADED SUPER MOUSSE

BAM

TAKE THAT, YOU CREEPY CHEATS.

S.M. KNOWS THAT HE TAKES THE CHEQUERED FLAG EVERY TIME HE HAS A SUPER-CHARGED SUPER MOUSSE.

SOMETIME LATER...

VAROOOM

SUPER MOUSSE WINS!

HOORAY!

BOO, HOO! ITSA NOT A FAIR. I WANTED TO WINNA DE RACE.

GET SUPERCHARGED YOURSELF!

Super mousse

2½p

countdown at 1

countdown RESUMES NEXT WEEK!